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ARIZONA REPUBLIC

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Votes in Senate leave DACA in limbo

Options dwindle as March deadline nears

Dan Nowicki and Daniel González
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

The U.S. Senate’s rejection Thursday of President Donald Trump’s hard-line immigration package and two more moderate bipartisan plans has left “dreamers” with dwindling options as lawmakers scramble to salvage an expiring program to shield them from deportation.

Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., who has been leading Senate efforts to find a bipartisan solution that would provide dreamers with a path to citizenship, immediately called for a vote on his contingency legislation.

Flake’s stopgap measure would legislatively renew the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program for three years in exchange for $7.6 billion in border-security money over that time frame. The Obama administration program shielded from deportation and provided work permits to young immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

Meanwhile, Republican Sens. John Thune of South Dakota, Rob Portman of Ohio and Jerry Moran of Kansas signaled support for enshrining DACA in law while providing the $25 billion that Trump is seeking for his signature border-wall system.

Trump is trying to end the program created in 2012 via executive action by

See DACA, Page 15A

Sen. Jeff Flake (center) is pushing a measure that would extend DACA for three years. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Opponents of Ducey’s K-12 plans hit back

Ad blitz’s response gets $25 social-media push

Yvonne Wingett Sanchez
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

A coalition of parents and public-education advocates from Save Our Schools Arizona are answering a six-figure ad blitz from some of Arizona’s most influential political players with a $25 push of a video on social media.

Since Feb. 5, the video has had been viewed about 12,500 times, has been shared 160 times and has had about 4,500 impressions on Twitter, the group says. That’s far fewer people than likely have seen or heard the big-money ad, but the group wanted to respond to

See K-12, Page 12A

Bill exempting foster parents from DCS gun rules advances

Mary Jo Pitzl Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

Foster-care parents would not have to adhere to the gun-safety requirements of the state Department of Child Safety under a bill that won approval from a House panel Wednesday night.

Call it a valentine to gun rights, passed late Wednesday as the state was marking its 106th birthday.

Supporters, such as bill sponsor Rep. Kevin Payne, R-Peoria, portrayed

See DCS, Page 12A

Concerns of racism boil over at meeting

Geoffrey Mobisson, a parent of a Santan Junior High School student, speaks during the Chandler Unified School District Governing Board meeting Wednesday. Concerns over racist incidents dominated the meeting. NICK OZA/THE REPUBLIC

Lorraine Longhi Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

About 100 parents and other community members confronted the Chandler Unified School District Governing Board on Wednesday, accusing it of failing to address a pattern of racist incidents in the district.

At one point, board President Annette Auxier left the meeting in tears.

The parents’ concerns reached a boiling point on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, when a Snapchat video surfaced on social media. It showed several Santan Junior High School students, at a gathering off school grounds, chanting racist lyrics to an anti-black song.

Parents: Chandler district isn’t doing enough to address incidents

More inside: Paradise Valley students create a human swastika. **4A**

Students involved in the incident have not been punished or suspended. The school initially released a statement saying that the incident occurred off campus and fell outside its purview.

When asked by audience members if the board would consider suspending the students, board member Bob Rice responded that there was no legal precedent for the district to do so.

“You are not acting,” said Geoffrey Mobisson, whose child attends Santan, in a blistering speech to the board. “This is not hard. Hold those kids accountable.”

The public-comments section of the

See RACISM, Page 14A

WILDCATS BEAT SUN DEVILS SPORTS

Head coaches Bobby Hurley (left) of Arizona State and Sean Miller of Arizona chat before Thursday’s basketball game in Tempe. Arizona won, 77-70. **1C, sports.azcentral.com** CHERYL EVANS/THE REPUBLIC

USA TODAY

Attorney says ‘broken’ suspect is remorseful

The public defender representing the ex-student accused of murdering 17 students and teachers at a Florida school says the 19-year-old was a “broken child” who is remorseful about the killings. **3A, 1B**

Counsel queries Bannon

Former Trump strategist Steve Bannon was questioned two days this week in Robert Mueller’s Russia investigation, the Associated Press reports. **21A**

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Weather

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